

Case Study

a father's story

Craig Peckham has two children, one who is diagnosed with autism, and one who is not diagnosed. He is originally from South Africa, where there is little support available for autistic children and their parents.



"I've changed my career and I now work as a teaching assistant in a special needs school. I've been doing that to learn more about autism, to learn more about myself, and learn more about the children and see how they are affected in today's world."

"Working at the school is very interesting and very different, because the children we work with run right across the full spectrum of autism."

"It's a place where we try to make the children want to be at school, we attempt to allow the school to be a safe space for the children to make their own decisions, whether they're right or wrong, and to help them work through the consequences of those decisions."

"Having two autistic children, in and of itself, can be really interesting, can be very demanding and actually sometimes can be really stressful."

"Our son is now ten, he has autistic spectrum disorder, he has ADHD, he has sensory processing issues and he has a general learning delay. All of these make for a very interesting mix of what has to be worked out with his life and what he has to be helped with."

"He finds it really difficult to function in normal day-to-day life. If he is in a place where he is secure and happy, he can be a really amazing, wonderful little boy. We wouldn't want to change him but it's very hard work."

"My daughter is a bit older, is undiagnosed largely because the system is unable to deal with girls who are autistic. She has a lot of struggles in and of herself and if we put the two of them together, it certainly makes life very interesting in our family."

"But again we wouldn't want to change who they are, because autism is part of who they are and how they function. Sometimes it makes for very funny things that happen and sometimes we could cry. But the hugs and the love and the funny times are the things that keep us going and that make it all worthwhile."



Scan the QR code to view a video of Craig or visit: <http://prt.cm/1831736>

Autism in Berkshire: Past and Present



Talking sense about autism.

Research: Rachel Cotton
Editor: William Crossley
Design: Siân Martin mdmcreative

All the panels from the exhibition can also be seen online at www.autismberkshire.org.uk

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